

**STATE SENATOR • HANSEN CLARKE • 1ST DISTRICT**

# **Clarke Press Release**

P.O. Box 30036 • Lansing • Michigan • 48909-7536 • 517-373-7346 • Fax: 517-373-5338  
E-mail: senhclarke@senate.michigan.gov • [www.senate.michigan.gov/dem/SD01](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/dem/SD01)



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**CONTACT: STATE SEN. HANSEN CLARKE  
PHONE: 517/373-7346**

## **CLARKE OFFERS PROSECUTORS A POWERFUL NEW TOOL IN COMBATING LEAD POISONING**

DETROIT- State Senator Hansen Clarke (D-Detroit) stated today that Senate Bill 757 would provide prosecutors with an important new tool in combating childhood lead poisoning. Speaking to the media at the location of a recent incident of lead-paint poisoning, Senator Clarke stated that state and county prosecutors need tougher laws so that they can take action against unscrupulous landlords.

“The passage of my bill will give law enforcement a powerful new tool to force landlords to clean-up identified lead-paint hazards,” said Sen. Clarke. “Once this bill is passed, landlords will think twice before knowingly renting properties with lead contaminant problems.”

SB 757 would establish penalties of up to 90 days in prison and \$10,000 in fines for landlords who knowingly rent property that has pre-existing lead-paint hazards. Currently, there is no state law prohibiting such negligent behavior. However, some communities do have ordinances prohibiting such acts.

Senator Clarke spoke today at a press conference outside the Harper Woods apartment complex in which a 2-year-old child was victimized by lead paint poisoning last year. Wayne County has already indicated that they intend to file charges in the Harbor Woods occurrence.

“As egregious as the incident in Harper Woods was, cases like this are still not uncommon,” said Sen. Clarke. “In fact, the number one health risk for Michigan children remains lead-paint poisoning. If passed, my bill will help to reduce that risk of lead-paint poisoning for the children of Michigan.”

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